



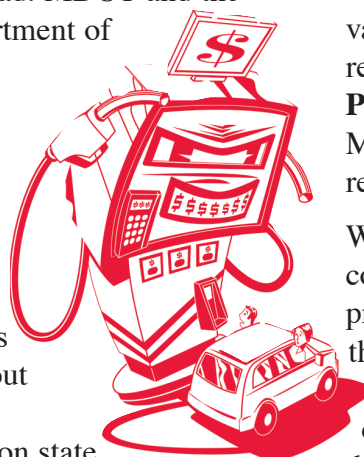
**State Senator
Deb Cherry**
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New State Website Helps Michigan Drivers Steer Clear of Road Construction, High Gas Prices

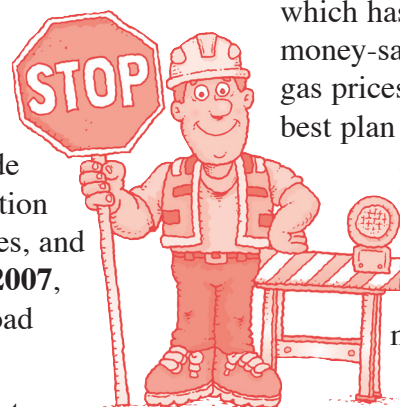
As more and more Michigan families seek to stretch their vacation dollars by traveling in-state, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is using the information superhighway to better prepare motorists for hitting the road. MDOT and the State's Department of Information Technology (DIT) have partnered to launch a new website designed to keep travelers informed about traffic and construction on state highways and allow them to monitor gas prices around the



state. Known as **"MI Drive"** (www.michigan.gov/drive), the new site consolidates data from a variety of State sources, including **Michigan's Gasoline Corner**, which offers a wide variety of information related to gas prices, and **Paving the Way 2007**, MDOT's online road repair map.

Whether you want to compare local gas prices, report price gouging, learn how to get the most out of your gas tank, find alternatives to driving, or discover in-state travel destinations to make the most of your entertainment dollars, this

website is a handy resource for all consumers. **MI Drive** also has a link to www.michigangasprices.com, which has helpful fuel- and money-saving tips and also lists gas prices by city and station to best plan your pit stops.



Paving the Way 2007 covers state trunkline (I, M, and US) routes, and can help locate major road and bridge projects on state roads. Separate Detroit and

Grand Rapids maps detail construction projects on state roads in those cities. The site is also a good source of updated information on projects and some potential alternate routes for major sites.

DNR Hunter Safety Course Hits Bull's Eye

We want to thank everyone who joined Senator Cherry for her 2007 11th Annual Hunter Safety Program, and encourage those who missed it to look for

the event in 2008! We also want to thank all of the sponsors who made the event not only possible, but such a rousing success: the DNR instructors, Flint Area

Building Trades, Goodrich Community Schools, IMA Children's Recreation Fund, and Meijer. This year, we graduated just below 300 people from the program, our highest number ever, and we hope to have even more certified next spring. The event is free and offered to all interested individuals. All supplies and safety equipment are provided. The training consists of two evening classes and a Saturday Shooting Range session. We also want to remind everyone that hunting is not only a fun activity and important Michigan tradition, it's also a serious responsibility, so be safe and be smart out there this fall.



State Senator • Deb Cherry news

09/07



For the Constituents of the 26th District

Dear Friend:

The first half of this legislative year has been quite a challenge. Much like the headlines, it has been dominated by state budget concerns. We have achieved some success, reaching a compromise to balance the 2007 budget with a mix of cuts and one-time savings. And late-night negotiations and bipartisan back-and-forth finally resulted in a business tax agreement to replace the outgoing Single Business Tax. (Read more about it on Page 2.)

Despite this, we've gone only part of the way on a solution for a balanced budget and an economic turnaround. The Legislature must now finish its work on our current Fiscal Year budget so vital services can continue after October 1. The crisis is deepening with each passing day, and the college tuition rates that are skyrocketing across the state right now are just one byproduct of the Legislature's inaction. I have called for the Legislature to stay in Session until we get the budget done!

I will continue to fight for a balanced budget and the protection of education, health care, public safety, and other services that Michigan families like you rely on. While the Senate docket has been dominated by budget-related items so far, I am still working hard for the families and citizens of the 26th District on all the concerns you face, including the health of our young women, the fitness of our children, and the voting rights of our students and seniors.

This newsletter will provide you with an update of what's been going on in Lansing and what I've been doing in the Capitol to help my constituents. As always, I will continue to be your voice in Lansing in the coming year and I will make sure all your concerns are heard loud and clear.

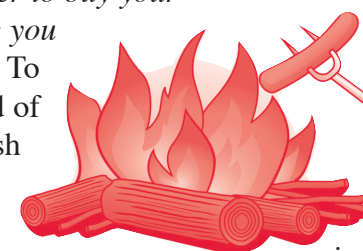
Sincerely,

Deb Cherry

Deborah Cherry
State Senator

Buy Firewood Where You Burn It

As many of us head out to family cabins and campsites this fall, please remember to buy your firewood where you plan to burn it. To stem the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an exotic beetle, the Michigan Department of Agriculture has prohibited the transport of firewood out of over half of Michigan's counties. And hardwood



firewood movement can be a costly mistake. Individuals or businesses found violating the state's EAB quarantine are subject to fines from \$1,000 to \$250,000 and jail time of up to five years for moving regulated ash materials, including firewood. For more information, please call the EAB toll-free hotline at (866) 325-0023 or visit www.michigan.gov/eab or www.emeraldashborer.info.

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Clip and Save

The MBT: A Business Tax That Works for Michigan Business

A new tax plan has risen from the ashes of the outgoing Single Business Tax (SBT). It improves on its predecessor to benefit Michigan citizens and businesses, bettering the state's business climate while still preserving funding for public programs. Balancing concerns for serving our current economy while cultivating the industries and jobs of the future, the new Michigan Business Tax (MBT) creates a fair business tax *that works for Michigan business*.

Signed into law by Governor Granholm on July 12, the MBT will end the economic uncertainty and apprehension in the business market that began when the Legislature voted to dismantle the

SBT last year. More importantly, it will remain revenue-neutral and will not add to Michigan's budget deficit. The MBT ensures that businesses contribute a reasonable yet fair amount for the state services they use and depend on.

The MBT will encourage job creation and make Michigan a more attractive and competitive business environment. This tax levels the playing field for all Michigan businesses so that the market rather than government picks the businesses that succeed. It is a win-win for Michigan leaders, Michigan businesses, Michigan citizens and Michigan's economy.

The MBT will provide a tax cut for more than 7 out of 10 Michigan businesses. It is an improvement over the SBT because it will rely more on profit and will provide tax credits to companies that locate or create new jobs in Michigan. It provides tax cuts for small businesses and for Michigan's major manufacturers, while also encouraging research and development, entrepreneurial ventures, and job creation in Michigan. In addition, a significant cut in the personal property tax will help the state's largest employers and commercial businesses.

This legislation is just what we need to put Michigan back in business because it addresses some of the core issues and concerns that were hurting Michigan businesses. It provides tax credits to jumpstart the economy, while also protecting current economic development tools. Best of all, it rolls out a red carpet for businesses considering locating in our state and makes Michigan's economic climate competitive with any state in the nation.

Simply put, the MBT is a business tax that works for Michigan business.

Email Newsletter Available

If you are interested in receiving periodic email newsletters to keep you informed about what's going on in Lansing, as well as other important information from around the state, please send your email address to sendcherry@senate.mi.gov and your name will be added to our mailing list. You may also visit www.senate.mi.gov/cherry which will keep you up to date on Senator Cherry's activities in Lansing as well as in the district.

You Have to Teach a Healthy Lifestyle for Kids to Learn It

Don't tell the kids, but summer is almost over and the first day of school is right around the corner. Which means that most kids who spent their summer climbing trees, jumping streams, swimming, biking, and playing sports will go back to sitting in a classroom, breaking only at lunch.

With the exception of a few warm months each year, kids today have replaced physical activity with high-tech, low-impact entertainment like playing video games, watching television, and surfing the internet. When paired with poor eating habits, it's

no wonder kids are becoming so overweight and out of shape. Obesity rates in children are ballooning compared to previous generations.

At the same time these habits are taking over at home, physical activity at school is decreasing as well. There was a time when recess and physical education were as much a part of the curriculum as math or science. While academics should always be the primary focus of education, the energy release and healthy habits developed through physical activity should not be abandoned altogether.



That's why Senator Cherry has introduced Senate Bills 125 and 508, which would require health and physical education for all K-8 students in Michigan. Just as

legislators provide input on what schools serve for lunch and in vending machines, and what they teach students, state government has the power to prioritize physical fitness. The Legislature, along with parents and schools, can help our culture change by standing up and providing the policy shift that will start thinning the number of overweight adolescents. Kids cannot learn a healthy lifestyle unless they have been taught one.

In the midst of Michigan's budget belt-tightening, this is a perfect time to address our state's obesity rates and the subsequent long-term health care costs. It's up to our legislative leaders to do something! This proposal is just one plan to improve Michigan's health, and as long as they have the power to improve lives, state officials should act on it.

Senator Cherry Leads Senate Democrats in Push for Removal of Barriers to Voting

Low voter turnout in recent elections has emphasized a need to increase voting access, and Senator Cherry and her Senate Democratic colleagues have introduced legislation to expand voting opportunities in Michigan and allow college students to vote where they live while attending school. Significant obstacles to voting remain for people who work multiple jobs, college students, and many others.

the reason so many young people have grown disenfranchised with the Democratic system is all the unnecessary hoops and barriers we make them jump through and over just to exercise their right to vote."

Earlier this year, Senate Democrats introduced a number of bills that aim to increase voter participation in Michigan. Similar legislation has been effective in many other states, such as Oregon and Minnesota, at increasing voter turnout. Senator Cherry sponsored SB 126, which would allow for early voting on Election Day and keep the polls open longer, and SB 127, which would allow

first-time voters like college students to use an absentee ballot. Other bills seek to establish No-Reason Absentee Voting, Same-Day Registration, and Vote-by-Mail.



September 26 Rally To Stop Insurance Redlining

The average auto insurance rate in Michigan cities is nearly six times the average national rate, and the continued practice of redlining—setting insurance rates based on where a driver lives—is costing citizens thousands of dollars every year. Senator Martha G. Scott (D-Highland Park), a longtime advocate for stopping the insurance injustice in Detroit and beyond, is organizing a rally at the State Capitol in support of fair and affordable insurance

rates in Michigan. The event will be at noon on Wednesday, September 26, on the Capitol steps in Lansing. To support her colleague and the thousands of Michigan citizens who are burdened with unfair and overpriced insurance, Senator Cherry encourages concerned citizens in the 26th District to join her. For more information on how to participate, call Senator Cherry's office toll-free at 866-305-2126.